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10/693,403	10/24/2003	James R. Stinger	10992509-2	1929

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P. O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER
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COLAN, GIOVANNA B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2162

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/18/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/693,403

Applicant(s)

STINGER, JAMES R.

Examiner

Giovanna Colan

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7,9,12 and 15-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7,9,12,15-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***DETAILED ACTION***

1. This action is issued in response to the Amendment filed on 07/30/2007.
2. No claims were amended. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 – 11, and 13 – 14 were canceled.  
No claims were added.
3. This action is made Final.
4. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, and 15 – 20 are pending in this application.
5. Applicant's arguments filed on 07/30/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, and 15 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Alam et al. (Alam hereinafter) (US Patent No. 6,336,124 B1, filed: October 1, 1998).

Regarding Claim 1 and 7, Alam discloses a computer-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions, said sequences of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform the steps of:

receiving a page description language representation of the document (Col. 6, lines 24 – 28, Alam) for providing a list of words in the document (Col. 6, lines 57 – 59, words, Alam) and position information for the words (Col. 6 and 7, lines 54 – 57 and 60 – 63; respectively, X and Y coordinates, Alam); and

automatically identifying table data in the document based on the page description language representation of the document and at least one table identifying feature (Col. 7, lines 6 – 9, 32 – 35, and 49 – 55, “an element of a table, or all portion of the table, depending upon the spacing of the elements of the table...”, and “results from subsequent steps, such as steps 702, 704, 706, and 708, are used to obtain the information which would otherwise be contained in the tags. The subsequent steps utilize the layout information (i.e., image representation) of the text to of the document locate words, lines, paragraphs, and tables, for example....”, respectively, Alam), wherein the identifying step includes:

dividing the document into one or more pages (Col. 15, lines 56 – 58, dividing into sub-pages, Alam);

dividing each page into a plurality of lines (Col. 15, lines 57 – 60, Alam);

for each line (Col. 8, lines 57 – 60, Alam), clustering the words of the line into one or more word clusters (Col. 9, lines 1 – 6, Alam<sup>1</sup>), wherein each cluster includes one or more words (Col. 16, lines 15 – 22; if the **block is a paragraph that ends with an incomplete sentence** or an improper termination ... whether **the block contains one or more sentences**, Alam), each cluster having a horizontal beginning point, horizontal midpoint, and horizontal end point (Col. 11, lines 8 – 17, wherein the right most X coordinate corresponds to the horizontal beginning point claimed; wherein the center X coordinate corresponds to the horizontal midpoint claimed; and wherein the left X coordinate corresponds to the horizontal end point claimed; Alam);

for clusters in the plurality of lines, comparing alignment of the horizontal beginning point, horizontal midpoint, and horizontal end point of clusters between lines, wherein a cluster in a first line is aligned with a cluster in a previous line if at least one of the horizontal beginning point, horizontal midpoint, and horizontal end point of the cluster in the first line is aligned with at least one of the horizontal beginning point, horizontal midpoint, and horizontal end point of the cluster in the previous line (Col. 10, and 11, lines 24 – 33, and 4 – 7, "...To determine whether the selected line is near the current paragraph in the Y direction, the appropriate Y coordinate (s) of the selected line are compared with the appropriate Y coordinate(s) of the previous line of the current paragraph to determine whether certain parameters and/or thresholds are satisfied..."; and "... comparing the left

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<sup>1</sup> Wherein examiner interprets the step of determining the spacing between words as the step of

X coordinate of the first word of the current line with the left X coordinate of the first word of a first line in the current paragraph to account for the hanging indent..."; respectively, Alam); and

identifying a line as being part of a table in response to more than one cluster of the line being aligned with clusters of previous lines identified as part of the table (Col. 12, and 17, 47 – 49 and 51 – 52, and 10 – 18; "...determines if the current block is not a table, step 1904 breaks up the current block into elements such that each element can be displayed within the display configuration. Each element of a paragraph block may be, for example, a word contained in the paragraph. Other division of a block into elements may be implemented. For example, each element of a list block may be an item or a line in the list..."; respectively, Alam); and

outputting data descriptive of the lines of the table (Col. 1 – 2, and 19, lines 65 – 67 and 1, and 48 – 60; "...at least a portion of the first row forming the row heading of sample table 2200 is displayed in each of the display pages...", Alam).

Regarding Claim 3, Alam discloses a method wherein the step of automatically identifying table data in the document based on the number of word clusters for each line and the alignment of the word clusters between lines (Col. 12, lines 47 – 49 and 51 – 52, Alam) further comprises:

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clustering the words claimed.

using the word clusters to generate column position information (Col. 9 and 18, lines 10 – 12 and 9 – 12; respectively, Alam), wherein the column information includes for each column a horizontal beginning point, horizontal midpoint, and horizontal end point (Col. 11, lines 8 – 17, wherein the right most X coordinate corresponds to the horizontal beginning point claimed; wherein the center X coordinate corresponds to the horizontal midpoint claimed; and wherein the left X coordinate corresponds to the horizontal end point claimed; Alam); and

updating the column position information (Col. 10, lines 42 – 45, Alam<sup>2</sup>) by performing a union operation between the column position information of a previous line (Col. 10, lines 26 – 29, Y coordinates of the previous lines, Alam) and the column position information of a current line (Col. 10, lines 24 – 27, Y coordinates of the selected lines, Alam).

Regarding Claim 5, Alam discloses a method wherein receiving a page description language representation of the document for providing a list of words in the document and position information for the words includes receiving a PDF representation of the document (Col. 2, lines 1 – 5, portable document format (PDF), Alam), and wherein converting the table data encompassed by each table bounding box to a markup language representation includes converting the table data encompassed by each table bounding box to a HTML representation (Col. 6, lines 42 – 47, Alam).

Regarding Claim 9, Alam discloses a computer-readable medium further containing instructions which, when executed by said processor, would cause said processor to perform the steps of:

using the word clusters to generate column position information (Col. 9 and 18, lines 10 – 12 and 9 – 12; respectively, Alam), wherein the column information includes for each column a horizontal beginning point, horizontal midpoint, and horizontal end point (Col. 11, lines 8 – 17, wherein the right most X coordinate corresponds to the horizontal beginning point claimed; wherein the center X coordinate corresponds to the horizontal midpoint claimed; and wherein the left X coordinate corresponds to the horizontal end point claimed; Alam); and

updating the column position information ( Col. 10, lines 42 – 45, Alam<sup>3</sup>) by performing a union operation between the column position information of a previous line (Col. 10, lines 26 – 29, Y coordinates of the previous lines, Alam) and the column position information of a current line (Col. 10, lines 24 – 27, Y coordinates of the selected lines, Alam).

Regarding Claim 12, Alam discloses a document processing system comprising:  
a processor for executing programs (Fig. 2, item 151, Col. 4, lines 61 – 64, Alam); and

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<sup>2</sup> Wherein examiner interprets the step of determining that the line is not near the current paragraph as the step of updating position information claimed.

<sup>3</sup> Wherein examiner interprets the step of determining that the line is not near the current paragraph as the step of updating position information claimed.



a table identification program (Col. 4, lines 43 – 46, Alam) for receiving a page description language representation of a document (Col. 6, lines 24 – 28, Alam), the page description language representation providing a list of words in the document (Col. 6, lines 57 – 59, words, Alam) and position information for the words (Col. 6 and 7, lines 54 – 57 and 60 – 63; respectively, X and Y coordinates, Alam), and for automatically identifying table data in the document based on the page description language representation of the document and at least one table identifying feature (Col. 7, lines 6 – 9, 32 – 35, and 49 – 55, “an element of a table, or all portion of the table, depending upon the spacing of the elements of the table...”, and “results from subsequent steps, such as steps 702, 704, 706, and 708, are used to obtain the information which would otherwise be contained in the tags. The subsequent steps utilize the layout information (i.e., image representation) of the text to of the document locate words, lines, paragraphs, and tables, for example....”, respectively, Alam), wherein the identification program is configured to,

dividing the document into one or more pages (Col. 15, lines 56 – 58,  
dividing into sub-pages, Alam);

dividing each page into a plurality of lines (Col. 15, lines 57 – 60, Alam);

for each line (Col. 8, lines 57 – 60, Alam), cluster the words of the line into one or more word clusters (Col. 9, lines 1 – 6, Alam<sup>4</sup>), wherein each cluster includes one or more words (Col. 16, lines 15 – 22; if the **block is a paragraph that ends with an incomplete sentence** or an improper termination ... whether

**the block contains one or more sentences**, Alam), each cluster having a horizontal beginning point, horizontal midpoint, and horizontal end point (Col. 11, lines 8 – 17, wherein the right most X coordinate corresponds to the horizontal beginning point claimed; wherein the center X coordinate corresponds to the horizontal midpoint claimed; and wherein the left X coordinate corresponds to the horizontal end point claimed; Alam);

for clusters in the plurality of lines, compare alignment of the horizontal beginning point, horizontal midpoint, and horizontal end point of clusters between lines, wherein a cluster in a first line is aligned with a cluster in a previous line if at least one of the horizontal beginning point, horizontal midpoint, and horizontal end point of the cluster in the first line is aligned with at least one of the horizontal beginning point, horizontal midpoint, and horizontal end point of the cluster in the previous line (Col. 10, and 11, lines 24 – 33, and 4 – 7, "...To determine whether the selected line is near the current paragraph in the Y direction, the appropriate Y coordinate (s) of the selected line are compared with the appropriate Y coordinate(s) of the previous line of the current paragraph to determine whether certain parameters and/or thresholds are satisfied..."; and "... comparing the left X coordinate of the first word of the current line with the left X coordinate of the first word of a first line in the current paragraph to account for the hanging indent..."; respectively, Alam); and

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<sup>4</sup> Wherein examiner interprets the step of determining the spacing between words as the step of clustering the words claimed.

identify a line as being part of a table in response to more than one cluster of the line being aligned with clusters of previous lines identified as part of the table (Col. 12, and 17, 47 – 49 and 51 – 52, and 10 – 18; "...determines if the current block is not a table, step 1904 breaks up the current block into elements such that each element can be displayed within the display configuration. Each element of a paragraph block may be, for example, a word contained in the paragraph. Other division of a block into elements may be implemented. For example, each element of a list block may be an item or a line in the list..."; respectively, Alam); and

output data descriptive of the lines of the table (Col. 1 – 2, and 19, lines 65 – 67 and 1, and 48 – 60; "...at least a portion of the first row forming the row heading of sample table 2200 is displayed in each of the display pages...", Alam).

Regarding Claim 15, Alam discloses a document processing system of claim 13 wherein the table identification program further comprises:

a conversion module (Fig. 6, item 628, Col. 6, lines 41 – 45, converter, Alam) coupled to the bounding box generation module for receiving the table bounding box for each table in the document (Fig. 6, item 612, Col. 6, lines 35 – 40, ACROBAT CAPTURE and ACROBAT WRITER, Alam), and for converting the words encompassed by the table bounding box into a markup language representation that maintains the table structure of each table (Col. 6, lines 42 – 47, Alam).

Regarding Claim 16, Alam discloses a method wherein the step of automatically identifying table data in the document based on the page description language representation of the document and at least one table identifying feature further comprises:

automatically identifying table data in the document based on one or more table headings (Col. 2, lines 39 – 44, Alam).

Regarding Claim 17, Alam discloses a method wherein the step of automatically identifying table data in the document based on the page description language representation of the document and at least one table identifying feature further comprises:

automatically identifying table data in the document based on one or more horizontal lines (Fig 15B, Col. 14, lines 38 – 43, five rows, Alam) and vertical lines that separate rows or columns of the table (Fig. 15C, Col. 14, lines 46 – 49, two columns, Alam).

Regarding Claim 18, Alam discloses a method, wherein the step of automatically identifying table data in the document based on the number of word clusters for each line and the alignment of the word clusters comprises:

determining whether the number of word clusters in a line is greater than a threshold value (Col. 8, lines 21 – 26; If the inter-word spacing or distance in the Y direction is greater than a threshold...; Alam); and

classifying the word clusters in the line as a row of a table in response to the number of word clusters in a line being greater than the threshold value (Col. 8, lines 28 – 34; Alam).

Regarding Claim 19, Alam discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the instructions for automatically identifying table data in the document based on the number of word clusters for each line and the alignment of the word clusters include instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform the steps further comprising:

determining whether the number of word clusters in a line is greater than a threshold value (Col. 8, lines 21 – 26; If the inter-word spacing or distance in the Y direction is greater than a threshold...; Alam); and

classifying the word clusters in the line as a row of a table in response to the number of word clusters in a line being greater than the threshold value (Col. 8, lines 28 – 34; Alam).

Regarding Claim 20, Alam discloses a document processing system, wherein the table identification program is further configured to:

determine whether the number of word clusters in a line is greater than a threshold value (Col. 8, lines 21 – 26; If the inter-word spacing or distance in the Y direction is greater than a threshold...; Alam); and

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classify the word clusters in the line as a row of a table in response to the number of word clusters in a line being greater than the threshold value (Col. 8, lines 28 – 34; Alam).

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant argues that; "The teachings of Alam that are relied upon in the Office Action do not all relate to identifying table data".

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Alam discloses the claimed limitation of: "identifying table data in the document based on the page description language representation of the document and **at least one table identifying feature...**" (Col. 7, lines 6 – 9, 32 – 35, and 49 – 55, "an element of a table, or all portion of the table, depending upon the spacing of the elements of the table...", and "results from subsequent steps, such as steps 702, 704, 706, and 708, are used to obtain the information which would otherwise be contained in the tags. The subsequent steps utilize the layout information (i.e., image representation) of the text to of the document locate words, lines, paragraphs, and tables, for example....", respectively, Alam).

2. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "location tables in a document") are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

***Conclusion***

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

2. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.



***Prior Art Made Of Record***

1. Alam et al. (US Patent No. 6,336,124 B1, filed: October 1, 1998) discloses conversion data representing a document to other formats for manipulation and display.
2. Egger et al. (US Patent No. 6,233,571 B1) discloses a method and apparatus for indexing searching and displaying data.
3. Hassan Alam (US Patent No. 5,737,442, issued: April 1998) discloses a processor based method for extracting tables from printed documents.


***Points Of Contact***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Giovanna Colan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2752. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Giovanna Colan  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2162  
October 4, 2007

  
JOHN BREENE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100